The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
October 15, 1999

Natural News seeks cub reporters, artists

Have you ever dreamed of entering the glamorous world of professional journalism, a world of bright lights and big names, gritty urban drama and heartwarming true-life heroism?

Well, this offer is not for you, then.

If, however, you have a story to tell about the work, the people, the science, art, and humor that make up life behind the scenes at The Field Museum, have we got a job for you!

There are many amazing Field Museum stories in every corner of our vast building (and in many parts of the world, for that matter). What we need for the *Natural News* are people who can help all of us understand what's happening and how it fits in to the Museum's mission and goals.

If you get particular joy out of interpreting scientific discoveries for an interested audience, or celebrating people's kindness in the line of duty, make sure we all get to share in the excitement.

If your skills are more visual, why not create a cartoon or illustration for the *News*? I know there are talented artists among us—the striking exhibits and graphics all around the Museum attest to that—but only you know what suggests itself to you as a fitting subject.

We can explore the possibility of a regular column or cartoon for those who are so inclined (and who have the permission of their supervisor to set aside the time). And of course we always welcome the occasional notices and thank-yous which are the backbone of the *Natural News*.

If you have ever wanted to stick a little "Press" card in the hatband of your fedora, don't delay! Apply now by e-mailing me or calling ext. 7286.

Rodger Patience

DILBERT
TINA THE TECH WRITER
I GREW TIRED OF WRITING THE SAME OLD STORIES FOR THE NEWSLETTER.
SO I STARTED INVENTING STORIES OF BIZARRE WORK-PLACE CRIMES.
SOMETIMES WE IN THE MEDIA HAVE TO GIVE THE COPYCAT CRIMINALS A LITTLE KICK-START.
www.dilbert.com
scottadams@aol.com

FIELD NOTES

Week of October 18

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m, Special Events

The **Natural News** is edited by Rodger Patience in the Development department. Call ext. 7286 or e-mail *patience* with stories, news, events, or any item of interest to the Museum community.

NEW!!
Deadline for each week's issue is now **Wednesday** at noon.
NEW!!

THANKS & PRAISE

Many helpers made the ball a success

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Women's Board Cartier Ball a huge success. Over 1,000 people attended the event, which raised $500,000 for the Museum. The teamwork and professionalism exhibited by Field Museum volunteers ensured a flawless evening. Thanks again—the Women's Board truly appreciates your help.

Submitted by Kalli Hilbrenner

Thanks for all the help with *Cartier Family Field Days: The Nature of Jewelry*

The Cartier Family Field Days, held on Oct. 2 and 3, were a great success! Much of this was do in part to the help of all museum staff who were on hand before and during the opening activities. I would like to thank the following staff and volunteers for helping make everything run so smoothly: D.J. Barraca, Ray Bondoc, Bob Cazy, Mary Jo Cullen, Beth Crownover, Liz Cruger, Kathleen Donofrio, Christine Fiene, Christopher Hernandez, Devonne Higgins, Mark Kennedy, Johanna Krynytzky, Phil Parrillo, Rhonda Perdue, Paula Ramos, Michael Roth, Mia Schillace, Scott Smith, Randy Strickland, Mentee Teah, Lynette Troha, Kristie Webber, all members of Housekeeping (we promise, no more glitter!), Engineering staff, Visitor Services staff, Security staff. To all, thanks again for making this a wonderful weekend.

Submitted by Lauren Niimi

Editor's note: Due to an editorial oversight, Lauren's note of thanks did not appear in the last issue as it should have. Her gratitude is undiminished, as is the ***News'*** *resolve to catch errors before the press date.*

RLP

Kudos for 'Glass on Glass' broadcast

I want to thank you for hosting & allowing the broadcast of this harmonious foray from the unknown into the possible through creativity... Your "Keynote Presentation: An Evening With Composer Philip Glass, Hosted by Ira Glass" was vital, informative, entertaining, and inspiring. (I was also able to hear it on ... I believe... NPR.)

Much obliged, Patrick J. Emerton

WELCOME

New annual giving coordinator joins Development staff

The development office is pleased to welcome Heather Scott as our new Coordinator of Annual Giving. Heather comes to us from De La Salle Institute where she was responsible for raising funds through direct mail and telemarketing programs. Heather will be coordinating Annual Fund and Founders' Council fundraising campaigns. She can be reached at extension 7784 or by email at hscott@fmnh.org. Please join us in welcoming Heather to The Field Museum.

Submitted by Cynthia Winship

EXHIBITS

Impact Meeting for *Masks: Faces of Culture*

Opening on February 19 and running through May 14, 2000 the Field Museum will present *Masks: Faces of Culture*. This exhibition, organized by the St. Louis Art Museum, features over one hundred

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

October 12, 1999

Dr. John W. McCarter, Jr.
President
The Field Museum
Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605-2496

Dear Dr. McCarter:

It was a pleasure to receive your July 28 letter, with its salute to the National Science Foundation's (NSF) 50th anniversary. My thanks to you and everyone at the Field Museum for joining in the celebration.

You should know that the "Silent Partner" column you wrote for *In the Field* is on our NSF 50th web site, and it has received many favorable comments.

Thanks again for your support, and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Rita Colwell

Rita R. Colwell
Director

ATTENTION ALL STAFF

Fall is here and it's getting dark earlier.
Be prepared for Daylight Savings Time by participating in a .....

Self Protection Workshop
Thursday, October 28
Noon to 1 p.m.
Lecture Hall 2

An interactive seminar to help you become more aware of your surroundings and teach basic techniques for self-protection.

Join us for this seminar and feel more comfortable and confident as Fall draws near.

Remember to dress comfortably.

Submitted by Human Resources

ATTENTION ALL FIELD MUSEUM STAFF, AND VOLUNTEERS HOSTING EVENTS OR MEETINGS DURING A BEARS GAME

Field Museum Staff and Volunteers hosting events or meetings during a Bears game are advised that the Chicago Police Department restricts access onto McFetridge by 9:30 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. during Bears Football games.

Bears Game time is 12:00 p.m. on selected Sundays and 7:00 p.m. on selected evenings. Once the Soldier Field Parking lots are full on day games (usually by 9:30 a.m.); access to McFetridge is restricted unless you have a Bears parking pass. These passes are restricted for the use of season ticket holders.

Once the game ends (usually around 3:00 p.m. for day games); the Chicago Police Department restricts access onto McFetridge due to the out coming traffic.

Please make sure that all parties who are visiting The Field Museum during a Bears Game are notified of the parking situation. If possible, we advise that Bears parking information be included in the invitations, publications, etc. We do encourage the use of Public Transportation.

If you need additional information, please contact the Public Services Office at extension 7911.

stunning masks and full costumes from cultures around the world, ranging from paleolithic times to present-day Hollywood. Among the unexpected surprises in this innovative show are mask costumes from rural Bulgaria, Sardinia, and Switzerland, where ancient masking traditions continue today.

To learn more about the exhibition and see slides of many of the objects in the show, come to the Impact Meeting on Wednesday, October 20 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Lecture Hall II. Contact David Foster at ext. 7373 if you need further information.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

News from Field Museum's Millipede Project

On Monday, September 20, **Marius van der Merwe** (Insects, Zoology and UIC) successfully passed his Ph.D prelim examination after only one year in graduate school. He defended his thesis proposal entitled "A family level classification of the order Spirobolida (Class Diplopoda) and a taxonomic revision of the family Messicobolidae." Congratulations to Marius.

Millipede specialist and Co-PI on Petra's millipede grant **Dr. W. A. Shear** came from Virginia for Marius's prelims and presented a seminar at UIC entitled "Early terrestrial ecosystems." During his stay, Dr. Shear also worked in our millipede collection.

On September 22, **Jason Bond** successfully defended his Ph.D thesis at Virginia Polytech University in Blacksburg. He joined the Millipede team on October 4 as a postdoctoral fellow. The millipede summer undergraduate student **Greg Gurda** (UofC) worked very hard and computerized a substantial part of our collection. He successfully completed a draft for the type catalogue of The Field Museum's millipede collection.

Types are the original specimens that were used when the species were first described. Such specimens are a very important part of every natural history collection and are often requested by researchers in other institutions for comparison with their own material. Our collection contains types specimens of nearly 200 millipede species. With the numerous activities and field work in connection with the Millipede Project our collection is growing rapidly.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Human Resources Department invites all new staff, interns and volunteers to attend the Museum's quarterly

NEW STAFF AND VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

1 - 4 PM

Lecture Hall I

Join us for treats, speakers President John McCarter and SUE Project Manager Carrie Hageman, and interesting behind-the-scenes tours in several of the Museum's collection areas.

RSVP to the Human Resources Department (x7271) by Wednesday, October 20.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

Effective immediately until the Visitor Services Manager position is filled, the following is a temporary Visitor Services department structure. Please feel free to contact any of the supervisors regarding the particular area of responsibility.

VISITOR SERVICES TEMPORARY DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE